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Fund Utilization Pattern Under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in Salem District

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Abstract

The Indian government initiated a number of rural development initiatives, such as providing enough infrastructure and road amenities, safeguarding public health, empowering women, raising living standards, etc. The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), one of the initiatives, was inaugurated on December 23, 1993. It was governed by the Ministry of Rural Development until December 1994, when it was reassigned to the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. Examining the fund utilization pattern in the study area is the main goal of the current study. Studying the economic circumstances of the sample respondents in the research area is the second objective. Moreover, to gauge how satisfied the sample respondents were with the subject of the study. The research reveals that the sample respondents had poor lack of knowledge above field level observation. There is no question that the public and MPs have a poor connection as discussed above. At the same time, it was demonstrated how fully utilizing MPLADS monies has a good influence (directly and indirectly) in numerous locations.

Keywords: Rural Development Initiatives, MPLADS, High Mass Light, Renewal BT Road, Borewell and Mini Tank

Introduction

To stabilize and improve rural areas, the Indian government initiated a number of rural development initiatives, such as providing enough infrastructure and road amenities, safe guarding public health, empowering women, raising living standards, etc. The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), one of the initiatives, was inaugurated on December 23, 1993. It was governed by the Ministry of Rural Development until December 1994, when it was reassigned to the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. The program's purposes include the construction of enduring community assets and the supply of essential public services including roads, power, drinking water, health care, and education. In response to this, each Member of Parliament (MP) received Rs. 5 lakhs in funding in 1993–1994; this amount was then increased to Rs. 1 crore in 1994–1995; Rs. 2 crore in 1998–1999; and again to Rs. 5 crore in 2011–2012. The Guidelines were last updated in August 2012 after being amended on December 1994, February 1997, September 1999, April 2002, and November 2005. Now 790 MPs including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have a choice to creation of durable assets based on local needs ([Demands for Grants of Central Government 2023-2024](#)).

Earlier of the Study

([Bhatt](#)) demonstrated that the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is great many and most of them are not measurable or achievable in the short term. Much like MPLADS, in case of SAGY too, the MP remains only an external agent who, at best, could only provide an 'objective' view, a direction and leadership to developmental effort in the chosen gram panchayat (GP). However, it is the people and the officials of the GP themselves, could fulfill the objectives of SAGY.

([Baldaniya and Bhoje](#)) explained that the MPLAD scheme, there is no precise work selection and fund use pattern; there is scope for rework it referring the reports of Government Authorities and Monitoring and Evaluations done by empanelled agencies. SAGY do not have any fund allocation to carry out the works so success of scheme depends on convergence, Involvement of Humble MP, planning and prioritization of works following set of guidelines of SAGY, coordination of all agencies together, fund rising through CSR, Synchronization of all stalk holders etc. can be a key factor to make an Adarsh Village where in local people and MP have a major role to play. Both the schemes determine the successfulness of MP during his term and play an important role in his political carrier. There are opportunities for necessary revisions or measures to be taken by governments to increase the strength of the schemes.

([Roy](#)) opined that democratic decentralization in India is the main pillar of the grass roots democracy through which change is brought about by voluntary consent of people that results in activating the process of the nation-building

([Shokrollahi et al.](#)) point out that a top-down, techno-centric or capital intensive approach to development alone may not be effective if it is not supplemented with a bottom-up, people-centric and human-capacity enhancing approach. Experiences with regard to the role of peoples' representatives in grass-roots level development have not been uniformed.

([Kumar](#)) highlighted that the villages selected under phase I was excellent while slow progress observed in phase II & III. MPLAD Shad been in the news about misuse of funds, District Authorities

diverted funds in other schemes, less utilization for SC/ST, payment for in admissible items and direct claims of corruption and politicization of the scheme. Selection of Village, Preparation of VDP prioritizing local needs, convergence, communication gap between SAGY body; Village Body & Work Implementing Department, quality of works, involvement of humble MP, follow the guidelines, online update of progress are the common issues and challenges of SAGY.

([Rajasekaran and Rajendran](#)) demonstrated that uneven distribution of funds across districts, politically motivated choice of works, poor quality of assets created and their poor maintenance, capture by interest groups and close associates of the MPs, financial mismanagement of the scheme and consequent inflated reporting of the amount spent etc. This type of activities brings out the poor relationship between the public and MPs. Surprisingly, there is no any question raised by district authorities who are not full utilization of allocated funds and not completion of sanction works.

([Kumar](#)) denoted that the implementation this scheme has been challenged in many fronts regarding its validity and its misuse of funds from the representative bodies. Despite its odds this scheme has sustained along way and making positive contribution towards aiming a difference in the society. For the smooth functioning of the scheme proper monitoring of the works be done and in all the developmental work at grass root level people's participation must be sured.

([Swain](#)) concluded that municipal councilors in Chennai influenced people's access to services by mediating between citizens and the municipal corporation.

([Rajendran and Rajasekaran](#)) analyzed that the field level there are some difficulties and problems for effective implementation of these are removed/reduced there is a light in the tunnel. That the MPLADS as an instrument to empower the local communities on the economic dynamism. Such useful, interventional mechanism needs to be addressed in the areas, where it is actually required.

([Das and Pal](#)) observed that the ruling parties want to gain the vote bank through the launching of people cantered welfare programs. A MP can

potentially Rs. 10 crore during five years of his or her tenure and spend that amount just before the next election.

Objectives of this Study

The primary priorities of the present research are as follows:

- To study the fund utilization pattern under MPLADS in the study area.
- To discuss the economic realities of the sample respondents in the research area.
- To assess the sample respondent’s level of satisfaction with the research area.

Statement of the Problem

In the process the community derives at least some benefit from the welfare schemes. One such scheme is the MPLADS. Certainly it has potential and capability to transform the society to a large extent. The present study throws enough evidence on this issue. Nonetheless, there are some difficulties and problems for effective implementation of these are removed/reduced there is a light in the tunnel. Obviously game theory states that in the game one would lose and other would win.

Profile of the Study Area

According to district census from 2011, there were 48.84 percent women and 51.16 percent men in the Salem district. Prominent language spoken by people are Tamil, addition to Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam, some people also speak Hindi as a result of migration from North India. The percentage of educated persons was close to 66.42 percent. Salem’s average literacy rate in 2011 was 72.39, up from 65.09 in 2001. If gender is taken into account, male and female literacy rates were 82.9 and 65.15,

respectively. The same numbers in Salem District were 74.39 and 55.20 during the 2001 census. There were 2,285,562 literates in the Salem District, with 1,285,107 men and 1,000,455 women.

Methodology Data Collection

For the study multistage random sampling technique was Conventicle adopted of in the sample respondents, at first stage two revenue block in Salem district was selected namely Omalur block and Nangavalli block and next stage two GPs was selected from both blocks totally four GPs were selected namely Thulasampatti GP, Selvadai GP in Omalur Block (22), Sengattur GP, Perumalgoundanur GP in Nangavalli Block (23).

Table 1 Distribution of Sample GPs and Sample Size

District	Blocks	GPs	Sample Size
Salem	Omalur Block	Thulasampatti	22
		Selvadai	
	Nangavalli Block	Sengattur	23
		Perumalgoundanur	
Total Sample			45

Cross section data was collected at field level from February 2023. The secondary data collected from 2014 -2015 to 2018 -2019 (MPLADS period), Department of District Rural Development Agency Salem, Tamil Nadu reports, journals and websites. Simple statistical tools used for data analysis like percentage and scaling technique.

Major Analysis

The following section briefly discuss the fund utilization pattern under MPLADS,

Table 2 Fund Utilization Pattern under MPLADS From 2014–2015 to 2018–2019

Name of the Work	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	Total
High Mass Light	9748350 (21.8)	12469403 (26.4)	10909100 (25.6)	10349400 (20.0)	33246586 (6.3)	76722839 (32.1)
Renewal BT Road	1750000 (3.9)	8900000 (18.7)	12373200 (29.0)	14504500 (28.1)	2320000 (4.4)	39847700 (16.7)
Borewell and Minitank	7734810 (17.3)	10123489 (21.2)	1799000 (4.2)	1300000 (2.5)	1990000 (3.8)	22947299 (9.6)

Community Centre	1965062 (4.4)	-	-	9130000 (17.7)	3000000 (5.7)	14095062 (5.9)
Bus shelter	650000 (1.4)	-	3600000 (8.4)	5390000 (10.4)	2900000 (5.5)	12540000 (0.2)
Multipurpose Centre	8951072 (20.0)	2400000 (5.0)	-	-	-	11351072 (1.5)
Concrete Road	2175000 (4.8)	2450000 (5.1)	2300000 (5.4)	-	-	6925000 (0.5)
PDS outlet	-	-	3400000 (7.9)	1750000 (3.3)	875000 (1.6)	6025000 (0.1)
Resting Shed	4700000 (10.5)	-	499200 (1.1)	-	-	5199200 (1.2)
School Furniture	-	4865679 (10.2)	-	-	185808 (10.3)	5051487 (5.5)
Concrete Power Block	-	200000 (0.4)	2729360 (6.4)	-	1416000 (2.7)	4345360 (1.6)
CD and Irrigation work	-	4099500 (8.6)	-	-	-	4099500 (16.7)
Drainage	2992516 (6.7)	-	-	1000000 (1.9)	-	3992516 (2.9)
Library	1500000 (3.3)	-	1000000 (2.3)	1200000 (2.3)	-	3700000 (2.1)
School PUPS	1467673 (3.2)	-	-	1600000 (3.1)	-	3067673 (1.7)
Approach Road	-	-	2972581 (6.9)	-	-	2972581 (1.8)
Sanitary Complex	-	-	1000000 (2.3)	875000 (1.6)	900000 (1.7)	2775000 (2.5)
PLF Building	-	1550000 (3.2)	-	875000 (1.6)	-	2425000 (1.1)
Laburatory	-	--	-	1300000 (2.5)	750000 (1.4)	2050000 (1.2)
Other	-	--	-	-	1500000 (2.8)	1500000 (0.1)
Slab (CD Irrigation)	-	-	-	-	1400000 (2.6)	1400000 (0.2)
MPCS	-	-	-	(1.9)	-	1000000 (1.0)
School	-	-	-	1000000 (1.9)	-	1000000 (0.4)
Anganwadi	675000 (1.5)	-	-	-	-	675000 (0.4)
Cycle Stand	-	-	-	-	650000 (1.2)	650000 (0.2)
Kitchen Shed	-	-	-	-	600000 (1.1)	600000 (0.2)

School Differently abled building	-	500000 (1.0)	-	-	-	500000 (0.1)
Arch	-	-	-	-	450000 (0.8)	450000 (0.6)
Pipeline Extension	294827 (0.6)	-	-	-	-	294827 (0.8)
Books (Purchase)	-	-	-	290000 (0.5)	-	290000 (2.1)
Total	44604310 (100)	47558071 (100)	42582441 (100)	51563900 (100)	52183394 (100)	238492116 (100)
Percentage Share of over all total	18.70	19.94	17.85	21.63	21.88	

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Salem District.

Note: Parentheses indicate percentages, BT Road - Barrackpore Truck Road, PDS – Public Distribution System, CD Work – Cross Drainage Work, PUPS – Parents United for Public Schools, PLF Building – Plant Load Factor and MPCS – Mission Planning and Control Station.

Among various types of out door lighting infrastructures, far-field, large are a high mast lighting plays an exclusive role in facilitating night time travel and transportation, citizen engagement in social gatherings and sports/recreation activities, around-the-clock industrial production, safety and guidance of traffic, and security of commercial, residential and public facilities and properties. In the study are a table 2 reveals that nearly 7.6 crore rupees was spend for lighting infrastructure followed by 3.9 crore we respnd for road renovation and 2.2 crore was spend for bore well. Notably, at the end of the financial period (2018 -2019) for MPLADS were highly 21.88 percent of funds utilized. Therefore, each MP is allotted an annual discretionary fund to spend in his or her district, offers an incentive to MPs to engage in individual political business cycles, or increased spending just before the elections, to improve their chances of re-election (Blair, 2017).

Table 3 Borewell and High Mast Light Direct Utilization under MPLADS

Particulars	Borewell	High Mast Light	Total
Own	2(8.6)	0	2(4.4)
Direct Utilize	21(91.4)	22(100)	43(95.6)
Total	23(100)	22(100)	45(100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 show show the respondents used the MPLADS facilities in the research region. Nearly 95.6 percent of the respondents said that they used the High mast light and Borewell facilities directly.

Table 4 Overall Opinion for Borewell of the Respondents Under MPLADS

Particulars	Good	Moderate	Poor
Utilization of Water	35	8	2
Duration of Water Tank	30	9	6
Alternative Source of Water Facilities	40	5	0
Action To Repair Replaced	9	30	6
Awareness	5	10	30
Panchayat President Approach	23	2	20
Tank Maintenance	7	9	29
MP Approach	15	10	20
Ward Member Approach	15	9	21

Source: Primary Data

The topic of table 4 shows the sample respondents' overall perceptions of Borewell, who use that water as part of the MPLAD programme. The majority of survey respondents express that some factors, including water usage, water tank duration, alternate sources of water facilities, and panchayat

president approach, are positive. Sengattur in the region president took immediate action for public grievances like motor repair, place cleaning and tank maintenance in the case of field level observation. In addition, there have been complaints from the Perumalgound anura reath at the GP president has not responded.

Notable, the same situation continued from MP approach and ward members approach. Majority of the sample respondents highlights that approaches were poor. Above field level observation the data shows that lack of awareness of the sample respondents were poor. The table concluded that there is need to create the awareness about development schemes at grass root level people. And at the same time increase to maintain the good relationship between the Member of Parliament president, ward members and public. Importantly, all sample respondents give positive opinion for utilization of high mask light at the time of field level investigation. This type of activities to improve the people welfare indirectly in the way of utilization of light for daily activities like business, roadside vendors, travels etc.

Conclusion

MPLADS is one of the important schemes to utilize large amounts of money to provide various adequate facilities like create of durable community assets, roads, electricity, drinking water, health, education, sports etc. Therefore in 1993 – 94 funds were allocated Rs. 5 lakhs per MPs and it was increased upto Rs. 5 crore (2011-12). In the case of field level observation, Sengattur in the area president taken up immediate action for public grievances like motor repair, clean the place and tank maintenance. At the same time, that situation against from Perumalgoundanur area like there is no any responses from GP president side. Notable, the same situation continued from MPs approach h and ward members approach. Majority of the sample respondents highlights that approaches were poor.

Above field level observation the data shows that lack of awareness of the sample respondents were poor. The above discussion there is no doubt, lack of relationship between public and MPs. At the same time, it was brought out the positive impact (directly and indirectly) in several places whoare fully utilize

the funds under MPLADS. Some recommendations to improve the MPLADS are; toneed proper guidance for fund utilization; to create eligibility criteria for MPs at the time of election, who are fully utilizing the funds under MPLADS are permitted to candidate (eligibility) of the next election; to empower the local citizen for monitoring the development works and Non-Government Organization/Volunteer Organization support to that projects for completion of works at grass roots level.

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